

UNCLASSIFIEDPAGE 01 BEIRUT 03800 092213Z
ACTION SS-30INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
-----245302 092215Z /67O 092120Z JUN 81 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2318
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIP IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/IPS/CR/TR Date: 11/3/97

☒ RELEASE ☒ DECLASSIFY
☐ EXCISE ☐ DECLASSIFY EO Citations
☐ DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions ☐ CLASSIFY as ☐ S or ☐ C Sec. ☐ TS authority to
PA Exemptions ☐ DOWNGRADE TS to ☐ S or ☐ C

BEIRUT 3800

DECAPTIONED

FROM HABIB

E.O. 12065: RDS-2,3,4 6/9/01 (DEAN, JOHN GUNHER) OR-M
TAGS: MILI, MOPS, PEPR, PINT, LE, SY, IS, SA
SUBJECT: HABIB MISSION: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS:
JUNE 9 - SUMMARY REPORT1. ~~ENTIRE TEXT.~~2. I MET WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS
FOR TWO HOURS AND TWENTY MINUTES ON THE AFTERNOON OF
JUNE 9. ALSO PRESENT WERE A PRESIDENTIAL AIDE, AMBASSADOR
DEAN, DAS DRAPER AND DCM BARRETT.3. THE REAL BOTTOM LINE -- AS IT APPLIES TO THE ISSUES
INVOLVED IN MY MISSION -- IS AS FOLLOWS:

-- AT THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING AND FOLLOW-UP SESSIONS,

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THE SAUDIS SHOWED AN UNUSUALLY STRONG INTEREST IN WORKING
FOR SOLUTIONS TO LEBANON'S INTERNAL SITUATION AND THE
SYRIAN-PHALANGE CONFRONTATION, WHICH COULD WORK TO OUR
OWN INTERESTS ULTIMATELY.-- A MAJOR FIRST STEP -- A REAL CEASE-FIRE-- WILL BE
DEPENDENT ON WHETHER MARONITE LEADER BASHIR GEMAYEL
CAN COME UP WITH A STATEMENT DISTANCING HIMSELF FROM
THE ISRAELIS TO SOME DEGREE IN RETURN FOR SYRIAN ASSURANCES
AND GUARANTEES FOR THE CHRISTIANS WHICH WOULD BE SECURED**UNCLASSIFIED**

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BY SARKIS ON BEHALF OF BASHIR.

-- WITH SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THIS KIND, THE SANNIN RIDGE AND ZAHLAH ISSUES MIGHT BE RESOVLED SATISFACTORILY (FROM OUR PARTICULAR VIEWPOINT AS WELL).

-- HOWEVER, THE ISSUE OF THE SAMS IN THE BIQA' VALLEY WAS NOT ADDRESSED AT THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING.

-- THERE IS, HOWEVER, SOME MOMENTUM AFOOT, WITH TWO QUADRIPARTITE MEETINGS SCHEDULED DURING THE NEXT THREE WEEKS. WITH AN ACTIVE SAUDI ROLE -- ON WHICH THE LEBANESE ARE COUNTING -- PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE, INCLUDING ON THE ISSUES WHICH CONCERN US PRIMARILY.

4. MUCH OF THE CONVERSATION DEALT WITH THE INSISTENT QUESTIONS RAISED BY FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS CONCERNING SAUDI ARABIA'S MOTIVATIONS, DEGREE OF INTEREST, AND MEANS FOR ACTION, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE SYRIANS. I EXPLAINED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SAUDI INTEREST AND OUR BELIEF THAT THEY WERE SINCERELY AND DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE LEBANESE QUESTION FOR THE LONG RUN.

5. BOUTROS ALSO ASKED ABOUT WHETHER THE USG'S INTEREST IN LEBANON WAS LIMITED TO AVOIDING A REGIONAL WAR. I WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE HIM OF THE SINCERE INTEREST OF THE USG IN THE WELFARE OF THE COUNTRY, BASED ON MY

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CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS AND MANY OTHERS DURING MY RECENT STAY IN WASHINGTON. BOUTROS SAID THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAQ WAS COMPLICATING THE SITUATION IN LEBANON AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION.

6. I STRESSED TO THE TWO LEBANESE STATESMEN THAT MY PRINCIPAL MISSION WAS STILL A RETURN TO A STATUS QUO ANTE IN THE BIQA' VALLEY AND THAT THIS REMAINED AN URGENT MATTER IN VIEW OF THE ISRAELI VIEWS ON THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE SYRIAN MISSILES. WE ALL AGREED THAT PROGRESS ON ZAHLAH AND THE SANNIN RIDGE COULD HELP RESOLVE THE MISSILE PROBLEM, AND THAT, VICE VERSA, THE PROSPECT OF A MISSILE REMOVAL COULD ALSO GIVE A BOOST TO A SETTLEMENT OF THE SITUATION AROUND ZAHLAH AND AROUND THE SANNIN RIDGE.

7. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM AND POSSIBILITIES OF BASHIR GEMAYEL'S DISTANCING HIMSELF FROM THE ISRAELIS. BOUTROS STRESSED THAT THE US COULD HELP BASHIR IN RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM, NOT BY MAKING US COMMITMENTS TO THE PHALANGE, BUT BY REAFFIRMING TO HIM ITS DEEP AND LASTING INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN LEBANON.

8. MORE DETAILED REPORT OF CONVERSATION WILL FOLLOW

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SEPTEL JUNE 10.
DEAN

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N VVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification ***

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